

December 1971

"The snow is snowing, the wind is blowing" . . . and Advent season is here. Among our joyful preparations for Chirstmas is keeping in touch with each of you so you will know that we think of you often, care about you very much, and love you lots.

All of a sudden these kids seem to be so grown up!

Maybe it's because . . . Leigh is far away at school this year. She's a junior at Duke University, taking a double major: Elementary Education and Psychology. She was unable to get on-campus housing so has learned to run an apartment efficiently, as well as being educated in the art of car ownership! (1963 Rambler). She and Michael seem to have some rather exciting and serious plans for the "Summer of '73."

Or maybe it's because . . . Dottie and Carl gave Karen to Sam "to love and to cherish" last June. (So many dear friends helped to make it a beautiful and memorable day not only for the Bride and Groom, but for their families, too!) Karen works as a secretary at MIT's Lincoln Laboratory, plus for her Dad on Saturdays. Sam is working on his Master's Degree in Education at Northeastern University and has an Organist-Choir job at a local church as well as substitute teaching at the high school.

Or maybe it's because . . . Ronnie is driving the car--even has his own 1961 Corvair which he is repairing in Auto Mechanics class at school . . . or that he has a job which, including school, causes him to be away from 7:15 a.m. 'til 5:30 p.m. . . . or his untiring efforts that are making a difference in the life of a little boy who has emotional problems. He helps in the church school when Mom is in a bind and builds accessories for the equipment his Dad sells to make a good job even better.

Or maybe it's because our "Bonus Baby" is a well-adjusted, independent second grader, who is forever reading the Sports page when it's school bus time in the morning, who neglects to bring home conference notices and school assignments, and who spends as many waking hours as possible out of doors. But when we can catch up with him, he does good and interesting work for school and is a fine helper to his Dad and brother. The endless energy of Don and Freckles (the mutt) is unbelievable around this house!

Or maybe it's because Carl and Dottie have been reorienting their lives almost without realizing it. Carl surely works hard; it can be very frustrating and even depressing trying to get your own business off the ground. But he refuses to allow his concern to reach the rest of the family and continually plays up the good things that are happening. Dottie is still dedicated to her work with the Church School; and along with her rather remarkable co-superintendent, has discovered that it is a real struggle just to find enough "dedicated angels" to teach the kids for a nine-month period! And though our struggles and frustrations and even disappointments seem to be greater than in previous years, our love and appreciation for one another seems to have grown--and we are richer by far than ever before.

Or maybe these kids aren't all that grown up . . . perhaps it's their parents who are beginning to mature.

The Wenzingers

Carl, Dottie, Leigh, Ron, and Don